

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08004

EXDIS

USEEC

DEPARTMENT PASS AMBASSADOR GERARD SMITH

E. O. LL652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, US, EEC
SUBJECT: US-EURATOM RENEGOTIATION

REF: BRUSSELS 07964

1. ON SIDELINES OF QUADRIPARTITE LUNCHEON APRIL 27TH,
DCM ASKED VAN WELL ABOUT STATUS OF US-EURATOM NEGOTIA-
TION. VAN WELL BELIEVED THAT THINGS WERE STILL ON
TRACK, BUT PROMISED CALL LAUTENSCHLAGER TO CHECK.

2. LAUTENSCHLAGER SUBSEQUENTLY SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN
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INFORMED OF CHANGE IN FRENCH ATTITUDE AS SIGNED BY
JACQUEMOT. THIS WAS CLEARLY BOTH A CHANGE AND A
HARDENING OF THEIR POSITION, ALTHOUGH FRENCH WERE
SAYING THAT IT WAS MERELY A RESTATEMENT.

3. IT WAS NOT CLEAR TO THE FRG WHAT THE PRECISE REA-
SONS FOR THIS CHANGE ARE. IT WAS ALSO UNCLEAR WHETHER

CURRENT POSITION IS FINISHED POSITION OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. THE FRG IS EXPLORING THIS POINT URGENTLY. FRG DOESN'T WISH TO DRAMATIZE SITUATION. CRUCIAL POINT NOW, IN THEIR JUDGMENT, IS WHETHER THIS IS FINAL AND FIRM VIEW OF ENTIRE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

4. LAUTENSCHLAGER WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE BELIEVED DISCUSSIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN NEXT DAY OR SO IN

BRUSSELS, IF INDEED THEY HADN'T ALREADY TAKEN PLACE, TO TRY AND CLARIFY SITUATION AND DETERMINE HOW TO PROCEED FROM HERE. DISCUSSIONS WOULD ALSO BE HELD ON WHETHER TO PLACE MATTER ON AGENDA OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING MAY 2ND. LAUTENSCHLAGER HAD CAUTIONED VAN WELL ON IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING ANY OPEN AIRING OF DIFFERENCES IN FORMAL SESSION. NONETHELESS THE FRG WAS FULLY AWARE OF SENSITIVITY OF THIS ISSUE AND PLANNED TO WORK EXTREMELY HARD TO MOVE THINGS IN A CONSTRUCTIVE DIRECTION.

5. NEWS OF APPARENT NEW FRENCH POSITION HAD NOT BEEN WIDELY DISSEMINATED AMONG POLICY LEVEL FRG OFFICIALS. LOECK, WHO HANDLES NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION MATTERS AT THE CHANCELLERY TOLD US IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION ON APRIL 27TH THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE FRENCH WOULD AGREE TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AT AN EARLY DATE. HE HEARD THE FRENCH WERE NOT FORMALLY COMMITTED TO DO CONFIDENTIAL

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SO BUT WERE EXPECTED TO DO SO ON THE BASIS OF ALL THAT HAD GONE BEFORE.

6. IN PASSING, LOECK ALSO DISCUSSED GERMAN PLANS FOR DEVELOPING URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPACITY. HE SAID THAT AT THIS POINT THE GERMANS WOULD WISH TO BUILD AN ENRICHMENT FACILITY UNDER THE URENCO SYSTEM IN ORDER TO SUPPLEMENT THE FACILITIES IN HOLLAND AND BRITAIN. HE SAID SUCH A GERMAN INSTALLATION WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MEET ANTICIPATED BRAZILIAN DEMAND. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE GREAT PRESSURE ON THE GERMANS TO BUILD THE FACILITY OUTSIDE THE URENCO FRAMEWORK IF THE DUTCH, DUE TO INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES, INDICATE THAT THEY COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN SERVICING THE BRAZILIAN CONTRACT. STOESEL

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